Dear Roger, Feinman 3/28/92

I phoned Lardner as soon as we finished speaking day before yesterday and I left a message on his machine. For all the many disagreements we've had for 25 years we get along well and I think it is a friendly relationship in which we respect each other. On the rare occasions when he has not returned a call promptly it has usually been that he was tied up on an assignment or was away. I've looked for his byline and not seen it so I presume he is tied up on a story and, if in Washington, regards the Village Voice story as one that can or will wait. I do not expect him to call me this morning because he is not a male chauvenist pig and Saturday's he does the grocery shopping for his wife so she can have that, the only time available to her, to follow one of her interests.

Since you were here the new maladies I have include recently-diagnosed sleep apnea. This is why I'm wide awake so early, a few minutes ago at 12:14, yesterday a bit later. Both days you and your situation were on my mind. My thinking has changed a bit. But I'm by no means certain about what I now think. Yesterday instead of reading the Post, which is usually here by 2 a.m., sitting in the car at the end of the lane and listening to good music on the stereo, I thought without reaching any conclusions about you until the local paper came. This morning with the first cup of coffee, thinking while washing and dressing.

If there has been any attention to the Voice story I've not seen or heard it. Also, I believe that as soon as you spoke to Lardner he spoke to his desk. I believe that if it had expressed any interest, at least for the immediate, if you'd not heard from him again he would have phoned to ask me what if anything I know about it or if I have any means of learning more.

I'm sure his desk knew about the story before you phoned Lardner. The Post loves to beat the Times and it has at least one reporter in a New York bureau. It may have changed but it has always been an experienced reporter. He'd have phoned on that one. And from Lardner the desk would have know that the Post has an inside source. So, while it may still be that it may have some interest when current stories are cleared up and may have told NY and Lardner to keep an eye on it, it is also possiboe that the Post has decided against a story and, as I think about that this morning, that may serve your best interest.

CBS's best interest, with the story not having been picked up, is in it being ignored.

If it is ignored there is no more damage to CBS and the people involved in the past, no longer with CBS, have the same interest, in attracting no further attention to it. If this is true, as I'm inclined now to believe, then I think your best course is to sit still and quietly hope it is true.

Originally I believe that the Times would pick it up, or Newsday or the Post. But they have not. If they were working on a story I think you'd have heard, probably from Salant. And your good judgement in phoning him immediately is working in your favor.

Originally I believed with you that the story means some immediate danger for you. Now I think it does not. If anything happenes to you it would break the silence and that would be enormously embarrassing to CBS. This can extend to trying to get your records but I am inclined to believe that also risks attention they do not want so I think the odds are that they'll not try to burglarize you.

So, if I may presume to give you advice, it is sit still and hope and do nothing to attract interest to an additional story but be prepared in the event other interest developes with any element of the major media. I'd ignore anything not major.

I think you did not understand the reason I told you that when Palmer Williams went for Whitewash the winter of 1965 and then Midgelely killed it. It was Midgeley who returned that copy of the ms. to me, saying they had no interest. He did not respond when I sent it back and said to hold it in the event an interest developed. He took it out of Williams' hands and as I recall Williams career proceed downhill thereafter. He'd spent about two hours with me at suppertime.

This means to me that early in before any thought of an special (or perhaps triggering that) CBS's policy was set: support the Commission. So, McCloy could not have influened CBS and had no occasion to even try.

No experienced and mature reporter is going ti believe that CBS had any need to "bribe" McCloy to get any secrets from him. Especially not knowing that CBS's policy was to support the Commission. If I knew nothing about this I'd assume that if there was any meaning to be taken from it that would involve getting him to appear on the special.

I've also thought a little about that brilliant and remarkable woman Sylvia and her passions and rush judgements she rarely changed. She was right instinctively on Garrison when the rest of us were wrong and she was wrong on HSCA along with all the rest save me about HSCA. She never even spoke to me after I was the cited source of stories critical of it in both the Times and the Post. If she had not made that to me incredible mistake in judgement this would not have happened to you. But she was not alone. Even Hoch, who will not fly, went to Washington by train, a long double trip, to meet with HSCA when it invited all the critics. By then this was really stupid. It was yearning rather than reason.

Her attitude toward me changed radically after the wrtch Schiller invented a criticism of her he attributed to me. If she'd given it any thought at all she'd have known it was not possible that I'd have said anything like that to her. I wrote her immediately and she was incapable of giving it any thought. This does not diminsh her. It merely means that she, too, was human.

I think I've arranged for the reprinting of her book when permission to reprint Whitewash was asked of me. This should indicate to you that I harbor no grudges. And I've told Hood that I believe there will be uncomplimentary references to me in her records and that if so they should not be withheld.

(As you can see, I'm using the clear side of extra copies of what I've saved on the chance it may interest you. This sheet is of a whole story in which all the quotes from me are fabrications of what the reporter, who represented himself as working for British pagers, told me was not in what he filed. At the paper they made it all up and it is the exact opposite of what I think and said often enough as I went into with that man.)

I'll probably know the details before long but I am pretty certain now that Accessories will be reprinted and get the attention it deserved when first published and then when reprinted.

And I've not even asked the correcting of her deliberate misdating of the books in her account of their appearance. We lunched at the UN one day when she had page proofs, I happened to notice that and called it to her attention and she insisted on deliberately misdating them as I now recall in favor of Epstein about whom she by then should have changed her opinion.

Saturday nights we usually go to the oriental restaurant of a friend and I believe we will again tonight. So while I can get this in the mail this early morning when in an hour and a half I go out for the papers, I'll hold it and mail it tonight. There will be no difference in the time in reaching you because we have now only one outgoing mail daily. We'll pass a box from which there is a pickup after we are at it. That will give time for such things as what I do not expect, hearing from Lardner or learning if there has been any attention to the story.

I also am inclined to think that the major media will want not to reflect poorly on that most Establishmentarian of personalities, McCloy.

I do think that your instinctive honesty and decency in phoning Salant is getting its deserved reward. I hope so. You did let them know in advance and that has enabled them not to be available, which is what they want and see as serving their interests.

So, try to be calm and patient and hope that this passes over as so many one-shots have in the past, one of the reasons I have always opposed them. I think current indications are that this is what is happening.

If Jerry has copies of any of your records I think you should ask for their return. Not that he'll do it but that he'll understand you may do something if he doesn't.

Sleep apnea, by the way, refers to not breathing while asleep. Mine is moderate to severe, moderate when I sleep on the side, severe when I sleep on the back. The test is a modern miracle. I was attached to two dozen leads to a wonder machine that recorded ever breath and movement, even the amount of oxygen I got. It will be repeated Tuesday night when I'm to wear a mask that has in some instances been helpful. Sleep apnea does make a stroke more likely. My neurologist thinks I've had three small ones. No known cause and with me corrective surgery is I think not indicated now.

I hope you can relax a bit and that what I feel turns out to be correct.

Good luck! Harold